Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The member is referred to the answer to question No. 169 of the Makaram sitting of the Council.

The plight of labourers in the Palappalli Rubber Estates.

319. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement published in the *Yogakshemam* of the 9th Dhanu 1101 (23rd December 1925) as regards the miserable plight of labourers in the Palappalli Rubber Estates;

(ii) if so, whether the Government has held any enquiry as regards the grave allegations contained in the said paper;

(iii) if so, whether it is a fact that the labourers are subjected, against their will, to hard forced labour;

(iv) if so, what action the Government has taken in the matter;

(v) if the attention of the Government has not been drawn to the above statement, will the Government be pleased to hold an enquiry at an early date?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—(i) & (ii). The matter was since enquired into by the Government.

(iii) It is not a fact.

(iv) & (v). No answer is necessary in view of the answers to parts (i), (ii) and (iii).

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In the answer to question (iii), it is given that "it is not a fact". There was a signed article in the paper. Did the Government examine the man who wrote it?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—An enquiry was made by the A Division Police Inspector under the orders of the District Magistrate.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, my question is whether the writer of the article was examined. He lives a furlong or two away from the Tirur Station. The writer is in British Malabar, and he has given his address clearly in the paper. I think I cannot accept the answer that "it is not a fact".

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—The writer gives his full name. Do you want to know whether the writer of the article has been examined or not?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is the main point. I want to know whether the writer—the sufferer—has been examined.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The report from the A. Division Inspector of Police, dated 24th Makaram 1101, says, "There was no man by the name of K. Achyutan Nayar or Kuttippurath Achyutan Nayar treated in the Hospital during the period in question either as in-patient or out-patient."

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He was not a patient in the Palappalli Estate as stated in the report. He doesn't say so in the article. He only stated that he managed to escape from the agent of the coolies and came to Irinjalakkuda or Chalakkudi, I don't exactly remember where. Sir, there is a signed article by the sufferer, and he has given his address and the exact place where he is. Any enquiry without seeing him, I do not think, will be a full enquiry.

President.—Whether the writer of the article has been examined or not is not clear from the records available.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to enlighten me on the point at the next meeting?

President.—The Secretary will say whether he has been examined.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He never says that he was not examined. He is not certain on the point.

President.—The records at hand do not clearly show that he was examined. That is what the Secretary says.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Are the records of the enquiry here, Sir?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—No, they are not here. Only the Inspector's report is at hand. The report says that his name is not in the Dispensary register.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He never says in the article that he was a patient in any of the Dispensaries. He says he was forced to work in the Estate.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The statements in the *Yogakshemam* were more or less withdrawn in a subsequent issue.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That may be to avoid further trouble on the part of the editor.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—You may give notice to the Secretary regarding the supplementary question.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Thank you, Sir, I shall do so.

A petition regarding the amendment to the Cochin Court Fee Regulation, II of 1080.

320. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the petition, if any, received from the public of Chittur with the remarks of the Judges of the Chief Court and the orders thereon of the Government regarding the amendment to the Court Fee Regulation, II of 1080?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The petition, if any, cannot be traced without more details as to date, etc.

Insufficient waiting accommodation at the Ferry Jetties at Ernakulam and Cochin.

321. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the insufficient waiting accommodation at the Ferry Jetties at Ernakulam and Cochin?

Will the Government be pleased to make adequate provision for waiting accommodation at these two places in view of the large number of people that cross the backwaters every day and in consideration of the inconvenience they suffer for want of proper arrangements for waiting?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 222.

The formation of the Malayalam Improvement Committee.

322. Sreemati T. Madhavi Amma.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report on the basis of which the Malayalam Improvement Committee was originally formed?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—A copy of the report with the Government orders thereon is available in the Legislative Council Library.

The extent of damages caused in the Mukundapuram Taluk by the floods of 1099.

323. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—

(1) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the total (area and loss in cultivation) extent of damages wrought by the heavy floods of 1099 M. E. in Mukundapuram Taluk?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly